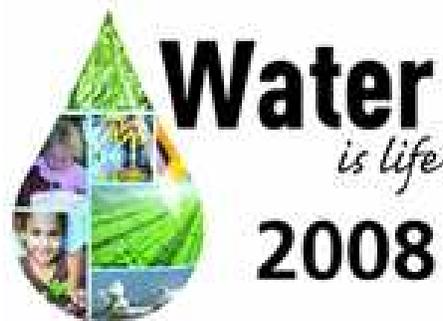


FFA Leadership Development Program

2008 Soil Stewardship Week Theme:



To prepare for the public speaking contest, students are to consult with their Ag Science teacher and use the Guidelines Packet accessible on the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board's website as well as work with their local soil and water conservation district (SWCD) as a local resource. A statement signed by an SWCD representative must be attached to the submitted speech.

If the student needs help finding information on their soil and water conservation district, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board will be happy to provide students with the name and address of the SWCD that serves the local school district.

This program is a partnership between the Texas FFA, the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

For more information contact:

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

P.O. Box 658

Temple, TX 76503

(254) 773-2250 or 800-792-3485

<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us>



Scholarships Available

There are ten \$500.00 scholarships that will be presented by the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts. One \$500 scholarship will be awarded to the top place winner in each FFA Area.

One \$1,000.00 scholarship will be awarded to the winner in the state contest. Scholarship money must be used to defray costs of a winner's education at a technical institution, college or university of the winner's choice. All scholarships will be awarded directly to a winner's chosen technical school, college or university in their name upon proof of registration as a full-time student at the institution of higher learning.

Expense Paid Trips: The state winner and his or her advisor will receive two expense paid trips under State of Texas travel guidelines to the annual FFA State Convention and the annual meeting of Texas Soil and Water Conservation District Directors.

To Access the Guidelines Packet

1. Click on the Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board website: www.tsswcb.state.tx.us
2. Go to Program Quick Links and click on “[SWCD Information & Education](#)”.
3. Go to Soil & Water Stewardship Public Speaking Contest and click on “[Learn More](#)”.
4. Click on “[Program Guidelines Packet](#)”.

To Get the Student Started

Have the student identify water quality and water quantity issues in their community. The student must address the “*Water is Life*” theme from personal knowledge gained as a result of research and personal consultation with the local soil and water conservation district. It is further recommended that the student consult each of the listed resources to gain a well rounded view of the theme topic. Other resources may also be consulted in addition to the listed references.

<http://texaswater.tamu.edu/groundwater.drinkingwater.html>

<http://www.watertexas.org/facts/default.htm>

<http://texas.sierraclub.org/press/facts1.pdf>

<http://www.knownfacts.info/water-facts.php>

<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/news/archive/2003/events/water/pdfs/water.pdf>

<http://austin.wateriq.org/resources.php>

<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/>

http://www.nacdnet.org/stewardship/2008/downloads/educator_guide.pdf

Specific Instructions: The speech must be between *six and eight minutes in length*. For specific rules and requirements relating to the contest, consult the Degree Check Guidelines.

Objective of Speech

The objective of the speech is to point out that local communities, the state and nation cannot take water for granted. All citizens should be aware of water quality and quantity issues in their communities and that every day human activities can affect water resources either positively or negatively.

Introduction

- Introduce the theme “Water is Life.”
- Discuss briefly your visit to you local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to learn about the water quality or quantity issues that may be prevalent in your county or community.
- Discuss the purposes of the local SWCD and how its mission relates to water quality, quantity and conservation issues.

Body of Speech

- State some facts about the current or projected status of water resources in Texas.
- Describe the county in which you live and the significance of water conservation practices in your area.
- How is the conservation of water and related resources important to your community?
- What is your local SWCD’s role to insure water quality and quantity in your community?
- What is the effect of urban communities on water quality and quantity in your county?
- What can urban citizens do to ensure water quality and quantity for the future in their community?
- What agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs), if any, are being used in your county that benefits water quality and quantity?

Conclusion

- What does the theme, “Water is Life” mean to you?

Soil and Water Conservation District Consultation Affidavit

I certify that _____ consulted with
the _____ Soil and Water Conservation District in preparation
for the 2008 Soil and Water Stewardship Public Speaking Contest.

(Student Signature)

(Date)

(SWCD Representative Signature)

(Date)

(This form should be submitted along with speech.)